

February, 2020

## **Supporting Thriving Students in the Michigan State Budget: Afterschool and Summer Learning**

Michigan's children will be our next scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers, parents, laborers, artists and lawmakers, but our K-12 results are not meeting the outcomes we need. By the time poor children are in the 6th grade, they have spent 6,000 fewer hours learning, resulting in gaps in their academic success. By the third grade, white students are well above their peers of color in reading, and high school dropout rates remain higher for Black, Hispanic and American Indian students, and students facing life challenges like poverty, disability, foster care, or homelessness.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are proven to offer students engaging opportunities to: build and retain literacy and STEM skills, stay on-track in school, discover post-secondary and career possibilities, and receive well-rounded nutrition. They also strengthen working families by keeping kids safe in the hours before and after school. The interpersonal skills and behaviors learned in these programs encourage children and youth to build connections that help them find relevance in their learning and rebuild from earlier traumas. Afterschool programs also provide opportunities for post-secondary students in sectors experiencing workforce shortages, including education and human services, to gain valuable experience applying what they learn.

There has been no dedicated state funding for afterschool since 2011, creating enormous gaps in access to quality programs across the state. Half of all schools eligible to receive federal funding who apply miss out due to limited funds in the program, which has shrunk recently due to the federal grant's allocation formula. The Michigan Department of Education identified a \$50 million need to be able to provide programs for students who need them regardless of their geography.

**Current Situation: The Governor's budget includes significant funding for K-12 education, including some targeted increases, but no dedicated state funding for afterschool programs.**

### Recommendations

- **Urge House and Senate leaders to dedicate \$12.5 million in state funding to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs, moving over four years towards \$50 million through interdepartmental efforts that reflect the role of afterschool programs in achieving Michigan's education, workforce, and public health goals.** Examples of revenue sources that could be brought to bear include:
  - Increased funding for Healthy Out of School Time grants in DHHS
  - Increased funding for STEM and workforce after-school partnerships
  - Funding to strengthen afterschool partnerships and post-secondary institutions
  - Dedicated School Aid revenue
- **Support funding for the IMS Global Digital Credentialing project, which would pilot recognition of out-of-school learning on digital student transcripts**